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Letter dated 21 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the official announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning its intention to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons issued on 13 January 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Adamantios Th. **Vassilakis**
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 21 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the official announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning its intention to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons issued on 13 January 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union deeply regrets the official announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning its intention to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). This is an issue of utmost concern to the whole international community, as it sets a most regrettable precedent that undermines the efforts towards the universalization of the NPT, the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The European Union member States express their grave concern over this unilateral step taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and maintain their hope that North Korea will revert to a more positive attitude that would defuse the present situation of crisis and would safeguard peace and security on the Korean peninsula. In this regard, the European Union reiterates its call on North Korea to comply fully with its international commitments concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in a visible and verifiable manner.

The European Union reiterates its commitment to make a contribution towards working out a lasting peaceful solution.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated counties Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.